

one appearing in 1984—a year of rapidly breaking developments in the microcomputer field. For example, it discusses the influential role of the IBM/PC, and it appropriately does not mention the Osborne computer.

No book, to my knowledge, will satisfy all the needs of a physician who may wish to enlarge a suddenly awakened interest in medical office computing. This one, however, does contain a wealth of factual material and many useful references to the relevant literature, all of which is apt to prove handy. I believe the buyer will get his money's worth, especially if this is the buyer's first book on this subject.

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MANAGEMENT OF WILDERNESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES—Edited by Paul S. Auerbach, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, and Attending Physician, Emergency Services, San Francisco General Hospital; and Edward C. Goehr, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, and Medical Director of Emergency Medical Services, City and County of San Francisco. Macmillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Ave, New York, NY 10022, 1983. 656 pages, \$68.00.

This is an extremely authoritative text for medical personnel with an interest in wilderness and environmental emergencies. The editors have sought contributions from experts in each of 21 separate areas which encompass most of the growing field of wilderness and environmental medicine. Specific topics include high altitude illness, diving and barotrauma, hazardous marine life, arthropod envenomation, venomous snake bites, aerospace medicine, heat illness, hypothermia and cold injury, among others. Pathology, case histories, emergency and definitive care are all carefully considered. The physiology, biology and geography are noted when appropriate, specifically for biologic toxins including plants, animals, arthropods and marine envenomations. The chapters regarding wilderness rescue, disaster planning and forest fires include descriptions of the current terminology and delineation of the most recent equipment, resources and management strategies pertinent to these developing areas.

The book is the definitive text in this new and growing area of wilderness and environmental emergencies and should be on the shelf of all physicians and other medical personnel with an interest in this area. It will also be of great interest to nonmedical personnel who are significantly involved in outdoor activities including mountain climbers, serious cross country skiers, scuba divers and rescue personnel. This is the first serious attempt to combine in one volume the medical knowledge relevant to wilderness and environmental medicine. It is a comprehensive guide to an unusual and exciting new area of medicine and includes excellent photographs, tables, graphs and diagrams. It is extremely well written.

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IMMUNOLOGY OF PARASITIC INFECTIONS—Second Edition—Edited by Sydney Cohen, CBE, MD, PhD, FRCP, FRS, Head, Department of Chemical Pathology, Guy's Hospital Medical School, London; and Kenneth S. Warren, MD, DTM&H, Professor of Medicine, New York University School of Medicine, Adjunct Professor, Rockefeller University, and Director for Health Services, The Rockefeller Foundation, New York. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1982. USA Distributor: Blackwell Mosby Book Distributors, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St Louis, MO 63141. 848 pages, \$96.00.

A better understanding of the immunology of parasitic infections could lead to techniques for eradication of the heavy parasite burden borne by residents of most of the third world and offer models for improved understanding of host responses to other (nonparasitic) diseases. Unfortunately, with a few notable exceptions such as the pioneering work on the immunopathology of tubercle formation in schistosomiasis, until recently the immunology of parasitic infections has been ignored. Investigators working with high-powered research tools to study immunologic processes were rarely knowledgeable about parasitic diseases, and those with clinical or laboratory expertise in parasitology were rarely conversant with modern concepts of immunology or its research techniques. (Less than ten years ago I reviewed a

research proposal by a well-known immunologist to study gut immunity by using *Ascaris lumbricoides* in a rat model. Questions of host specificity aside, the applicant seemed totally unaware of the relative size of an adult *Ascaris* and the rat intestinal lumen.)

To foster interaction between parasitologists and immunologists, this book was first published in 1976. This second edition, published in 1982, dramatically illustrates the rapid changes in the knowledge base since 1976. Nearly a fourth of the earlier edition was devoted to immunodiagnosis. The new edition has almost twice as many pages, and immunodiagnosis takes its place along with immunity and immunopathology as the central theme and longest part of the book. The last two chapters offer a remarkably concise synopsis of protozoa and helminths. The book is very nicely printed and well referenced. Experts from several countries concisely and clearly describe the pathogenic mechanisms, host responses and experimental models for 14 protozoal and helminth infections. Newer biochemical techniques have led to the recognition of different species of morphologically similar parasites, leading to the rewriting of much that was said earlier about the epidemiology and pathogenic potential of these parasites. Although improved techniques for characterization of parasite antigens and for the study of host responses have been applied to diverse parasites to good advantage, gaps in understanding remain large.

This book is highly recommended to those interested either in parasitology or immunology. One hopes that the audience for the third edition will be larger.

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FORENSIC MEDICINE: A Guide to Principles—Second Edition—I. Gordon MB, ChB, FRSSA, Hon MD (Natal), Hon LL D (S.A.), Emeritus Professor of Forensic Medicine, University of Natal, and Formerly Chief Government Pathologist, Durban, and Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Natal, 1955-1971; H.A. Shapiro, PhD, MB, ChB, FRSSA, Hon LL D (Natal), Professor of Forensic Medicine, University of South Africa, Visiting Professor of Forensic Medicine, University of Natal, Former Government Pathologist, Cape Town. Churchill Livingstone, Inc, 1560 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 1982. 451 pages, \$50.00.

Few complete and current textbooks on forensic medicine exist. Most of the current information is in the journals, and most of the textbooks are from countries other than the United States. Most of these build heavily on archaic, inaccurate and misleading information. As such they are not suitable reference books for physicians new to the specialty or for physicians who need occasional information in their practices. This is true because persons may lack the necessary depth of background or training to sort out fact from inaccuracy.

This book, *Forensic Medicine: A Guide to Principles*, is a text not to be used by those inexperienced in forensic medicine. It contains many excellent sections which represent authoritative information consistent with the best current medical knowledge. The chapter on postmortem changes is quite good. However, it describes the sexual asphyxia as a suicide and reflects on sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) more as an accidental asphyxia than a natural death.

There are many examples of case experience that are unique and helpful, so that this would be a beneficial additional reference for the physician working routinely in forensic medicine but not for the primary reference work in the field.

The references generally are remote, with recent citations added to the text. The photographs are of poor quality because of the printing and paper which combine to detract from their illustrative value.

In summary, this is a less than authoritative book, filled with much misleading information and is not recommended for the occasional reader. However, there are excellent sections if one has the primary expertise to make that differentiation. Practitioners of forensic medicine should have this text; others should not make the purchase.

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